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SOURCE Meditsinskiy Rabotnik, No 42, 1949INSTITUTE IGNORES PARTY POLICY

The administration of the Central Institute of Roentgenology, Radiology and Cancer, Ministry of Public Health USSR, Leningrad, has been characterized by constant inefficiency and lack of interest in the well-being of the institute. No attempt has been made to encourage young specialists to join the staff. The years 1948 and 1949 were distinguished by the small number of papers and reports submitted -- four candidate's theses and one doctorate's thesis each year. Forty members of the staff have no degrees.

It appears that the institute's administrative personnel favor the "old school tie" spirit and resent the acquisition of new blood. Frequently new ideas have been squelched because they were not in accord with the decision of so-called "authorities" at the institute. This "old school tie" spirit has manifested itself many times. The most flagrant example was when Deputy Director Funshteyn suggested his wife as a possible member of the staff. She was accepted. Some of the lesser dignitaries of the institute, Professors Arkuskiy and Shaak, were able to place their daughters as candidates in the institute. Many others have engaged in this practice of nepotism and gain.

There are many instances where institute policy has been directly opposed to Party policy. After the famous August session of the VASKhNIL, at which the Party was able to reveal the capitalistic decadence which had become universal among students of heredity, a specific order was issued to the directorship of the institute to relieve one Olenov as a member of the staff. It is true that he no longer teaches in the institute's laboratories, but he is still being retained as a member of the staff with full teaching privileges. As a result there has been no appreciable decrease in the Morganistic slant of education provided at the institute. The institute was also instructed to relieve A. M. Yugenburg. However, the authorities of the institute immediately replied that she was an extremely valuable scientist and that no conference would be successful unless she were present. The strangest part about the situation is that though she is officially in charge of the Therapeutics Department, she is never there. Actually this is no surprise in view of the fact that Director Nemenov is Yugenburg's husband.

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The rest of the "important, indispensable specialists" are selected in a similar manner. There are 28 members in the scientific council of the institute. Of these, six are never at their posts. It is therefore evident why the institute has not been able to formulate a satisfactory training and educational program along the ideo-political lines suggested by the Party. They even failed to submit the expected letter to Stalin, assuring him of cooperation between the people, Soviet ideals, and scientists. No letter was sent by the institute to the Minister of Public Health USSR, supporting the plan for greater cooperation between institutes and field and operating units of the Ministry of Public Health.

It is not infrequent that records are falsified. At a recent conference of directors of institutes, Nemenov reported that his institute had complied with its requirements for the publishing of reports -- a total of 80 reports. However, when asked to produce, he was able to account for only 48. Was it a coincidence that the Therapeutics Department was one of the sections of the institute which did not submit a single report?

The Institute has developed a method of selecting delegates to conferences which is entirely foreign to the system set up under the articles of Soviet laws. Instead of organizing a committee to elect delegates, Director Nemenov, thinking it more efficient, has established himself as sole judge of who is to attend what conference. For the year 1948 - 1949 some 151 collaborators were admitted to the institute. This in itself is not bad, but in view of the fact that 193 were necessary, the showing is not good. Moreover, the institute has no personnel department, neither does it have a personnel inspector. As a result there is no instrumentality for relieving personnel of their duties. Several, however, have left the institute voluntarily, thus further decreasing the quality of the institute's staff.

Director Nemenov apparently has no interest in the political well-being of the institute's staff. He has made it quite obvious, by his absence at various Party functions, that he is not in agreement with ideas proposed by the Party. At one time representatives of the Petrograd Rayon Party Council requested Nemenov's presence at forthcoming Party conferences. Twice he turned down the invitations.

The Ministry of Public Health USSR published an order on 7 October 1949 relieving Nemenov from his post as director of the institute. Apparently it is necessary to do more than merely publish orders. Obviously stronger measures must be adopted to guarantee the institute's manifestation of accord with Party policies. -- V. Kol'tsov, Leningrad

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